

BOYD CHAPEL WORSHIP
DECEMBER 22, 2024 7:30 A.M.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINCHESTER

Serving Christ and Neighbor in the Heart of Winchester and Beyond.



Welcome

Lighting of Advent Candle

Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O First Presbyterian Church of Winchester, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

Congregation: God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

Call to Worship

Give ear to our cries, O Shepherd of your people;

let your face shine, and save us.

Though we've been fed the bread of tears,

let your face shine, and save us.

Though our enemies rise up,

though we feel consumed and surrounded,

let your face shine, and save us.

Awaken your might; lead us gently in your light.

Restore us, O God, so that we might be saved. Amen.

‡ **HYMN 119**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

Prayer of Confession

God of the wilderness, you have always sent your prophets to lead us to repentance, to make a way for your salvation to arrive. Help us this day

to receive your presence, removing every hindrance and obstacle to your Spirit's work. Make your salvation known from every segment of our lives to every corner of this earth. Amen. *Silence for personal confession*

Words of Forgiveness

Scripture: *Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:39-55*

Sermon: "The Love Song of the Humble" by the Rev. Michael Hafele

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper with Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

✠ Benediction

Poinsettia Dedications

Today is the final day to submit your Poinsettia dedications. Paper forms can be placed in the offering basket or left at the office. The online form can be found on the homepage of fpcwinc.org on the top menu bar and will close tonight, December 22, at 9 pm.

Christmas Eve Services

4pm Children's Service: Offerings will be evenly split between Froggy's Closet and Healthy Families. **7pm Youth Led Service:** Offerings will go to the Henry and William Evans Home for Children. **9pm Candlelight Service:** Offerings go to the Helper Fund.

Office Announcements

- If you've recently made or plan to make a stock transfer or IRA distribution, please notify Jennifer in the church office to ensure your gift is credited accurately.
- Offering envelopes are available in the Gathering Hall on the table below the name tags.
- If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, please do so soon. - 2024 offerings need to be dropped off at the church office by Dec. 31 at noon or postmarked by Dec. 31 in order to be included in your '24 Tax Statements.
- All 2024 expense reimbursements must be submitted to the office by Friday, January 3.